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GLBT INFORMATION
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VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 6

JULY 2007

PRIDE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley's Queen of Pride

Pageant: Sunday, August 5
at the Stonewall in Allentown.

Doors open at 7pm.
For more information
see
www.prideglv.org.

Pride
in the
Park™
2007

ALLEGTON, PA

LEHIGH
VALLEY'S
PRIDE IN
THE PARK
WILL BE
AUGUST 19

Live.
Love.
Be Proud.

HARRISBURG PRIDE
FESTIVAL IS JULY 28

READ MORE ABOUT IT ON PAGE 2.

We Are a Family at Knoebel's Grove

PRIDE Picnic



Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park
Elysburg PA

13th Annual PRIDE PICNIC at Knoebels Grove
Saturday August 11th 2007
Pavilion T10

Covered dish lunch and raffle at 3pm
Registration begins at 11:00am
Join us for the meal and/or the day
Bring a covered dish to share, Bar B Que,
Utensils & Tableware will be provided

Questions and directions:
Rick and Russ - kkoeksd@optpd.net
Mike and Mike - 717-572-9111
Volunteers Needed Day Of Event

REMINDER: Pride Picnic is NOT Sponsored by Knoebel's Grove

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley
610-HELP-123
(610-435-7123)

LOCAL SCHOOL OFFERS BENEFITS

Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts and their healthcare provider Highmark Blue Shield are granting full health and dental domestic partner benefits starting August 1st 2007.

A GLBT employee states that the administration was very supportive of his request for the benefits. This serves to remind the community that sometimes the only thing standing between you and DP benefits from your supportive employer is you asking for them.

Reading Pride Celebration

Join us as we make history

Sunday July 15th 2007, 12 - 6 PM

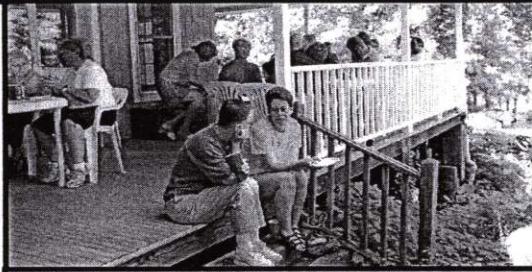
Centre Park

In Reading's Historic District

Reading
Pride



READING PRIDE - JULY 15TH
FOR A LIST OF READING PRIDE FESTIVAL
ENTERTAINERS AND VENDORS SEE PAGE 9



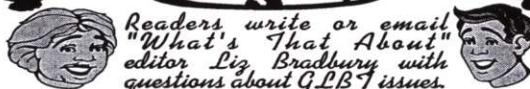
PFLAG JUNE PICNIC ATTENDED BY 50

GLBT CIVIL RIGHTS BILL INTRODUCED IN HARRISBURG

Legislation prohibiting discrimination in Pennsylvania on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in housing, employment, and public accommodations was introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 13. The bill, HB 1400, was co-sponsored by a record 70 members of the House. Similar legislation, SB761, was introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate in April with a record number of 22 co-sponsors. The Senate bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House bill is expected to go to the House State Government Committee.

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About"
editor Liz Bradley with
questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA: I've heard that a lesbian in San Francisco is suing the dating service eHarmony.com because it discriminates against GLBT people. Didn't What's That About write about eHarmony a few years ago. Signed Single but Looking

Dear Single but... Yes, I wrote about eHarmony CEO and far right Christian, Neil "kind of makes your skin crawl" Clark Warren's anti-gay statements that included: "Well, gay marriage isn't legal and we don't want to break the law." And also his links to the radically anti-gay organization Focus on the Family.

Frankly, though some people in the GLBT community think this kind of legal effort is frivolous, I'm positive about this lawsuit for several reasons. I actually read one reply comment that said that there probably wasn't a state law that required eHarmony not to discriminate against gay people. Huh? No law protecting gays in San Francisco? Wrong, laws in S.F. and California require public accommodation nondiscrimination for GLBT people.

That means businesses like eHarmony may not discriminate. After all, this is not a mission driven not-for-profit organization seeking to promote only straight marriages. What if eHarmony was denying services to people because they were practicing Jews or Muslims or Catholics. People don't fully understand that denying services for one minority is the same as denying services for any other minority. This lawsuit brings this to the forefront and educates people about discrimination. Hey, even the Morning Call ISO pages (when they had them) had ads for Men seeking Women, Women seeking Men, Men seeking Men and Women seeking Women.

But the best part of this public lawsuit against this mega company, which blatantly discriminates against GLBT folks, is that Match.com has risen to the occasion. Match.com does not discriminate against GLBT people. In fact one of their branches, Chemistry.com, has begun a major ad campaign riffing off eHarmony's bias in a pro-gay way.

One of Chemistry.com's new ads has a nice looking young guy checking out a Playboy-esque centerfold for a few seconds, then shaking his head saying, "Nope, still gay." The voice over makes it clear that unlike eHarmony.com, their company is here to help everyone. Exposing discrimination is a good thing. Standing up and saying you are proud of the fact that you don't discriminate, and welcoming minority members who have been disenfranchised, is even better.

PRIDEFEST IN HARRISBURG

PrideFest of Central PA and Unity Parade 2007

The Pride Festival of Central PA welcomes you to Live!, Lovel!, and Be Proud! at Central PA PrideFest held on Saturday, July 28 from Noon until 7pm at South Riverfront Park in Harrisburg, PA, admission is \$7.00. The festival kicks off at 10am with the 2nd Annual PrideFest Unity Parade along Front Street and will headline Frenchie Davis, the former American Idol, at 6pm. Make a weekend of it and attend the Voices United Concert on Friday, July 27 at 8pm inside Market Square Presbyterian Church, downtown Harrisburg, admission is \$15.00. The concert, hosted by the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, features four choirs including the MCC, Unitarian Universalist and Womyn's choirs.

If you or your organization would like to participate in the festival or the parade please visit <http://www.harrisburgpride.org>, <http://www.centralpagayprideparade.org> or contact: Dan Stroup, Central PA PrideFest Unity Parade, 311 South Front St., PO Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108, 717-234-0328.

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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

PRIDE AND FUN IN NYC

I was talking to Cora the Coworker. Cora says her family is Catholic so they celebrate Easter according to the Western calendar. But her sister-in-law is Russian Orthodox so they celebrate Easter a little later in the season. So I said, I live in New York and celebrate Pride on the last Sunday in June. But I'm also from Allentown so I celebrate Pride a little later in the season.

One thing about New York, there's always a lot to do. The Tribeca Film Festival ended just in time for the Gay & Lesbian theater festival, which ended just in time for Newfest, the GLBT film festival. Typically Newfest deals with movies that have already been filmed so the last event of Newfest this year was a little different. A staged reading of Another Gay Movie 2: Gays Gone Wild. I don't know if the original came to the Lehigh Valley but I saw it here and became a fan. Try to imagine a gay version of Porky's. It was a movie with a twist. The writer lifted lines right out of Revenge of the Nerds and American Pie. The story revolves around four twinks and their lesbian friend Muffler during their summer between high school and college.

So I went to the reading at the Zipper Theater and listened to the sequel. Located in an old zipper factory on West 37th Street, the theater is just the kind of place I like. With no apologies to Broadway it stands as a bastion to Bohemia. The lobby is full of mismatched furniture, beat up Persian carpets, low lighting, and a fully stocked bar. The walls and curio cabinets are full of dusty New York momentos of by-gone days. There is a Dr. Pepper machine, the kind with the narrow glass door on the left which you have to reach in and take out a glass bottle of soda. There are also floor lamps with beaded shades and hot guys with shaved heads. I get there early and the crowd grows. The reading is supposed to start at seven o'clock. It's 7:16 and we are still waiting in the lobby. Finally we are let in. Some of the seats appear to be originally from automobiles. Bare stage and I mean bare. No back curtain just a back wall in need of a paint job.

Twelve seats are set up on the stage, mismatched of course, for the readers/performers. The author/director gets up on stage. "I finished the script an hour ago" which gets a chuckle from the audience. The original cast take their seats plus special guest readers RuPaul, Lady Bunny and Bianca Leigh, a beautiful drag queen famous in the downtown scene. The sequel is very funny; it took forty-seven years but finally a gay response to Where the Boys Are.

At the end of the reading I mingled and I scored. I got my picture taken with Muffler.

SEPCADD HAS SERVICES FOR GLBT PEOPLE & IS WORKING ON:

The New Hope Gay & Lesbian Recovery Center - a planned community center to help meet the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. This Center will provide a safe recovery environment for those individuals suffering from addictive disorders. The NHGLRC will provide resources for substance abuse education, prevention, intervention, advocacy and treatment issues. South Eastern PA Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. 1007 North Easton Road (Route 611), Doylestown, PA 18901-3409-9995 www.sepcadd.com/about.htm

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenuyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page www.uuchpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The summer schedule is now in full swing.

Tennis: Tuesdays at 7:00pm; Sundays at 3:00pm. Email for location. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 7:00pm in Catasauqua. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

GLOSS AT THE WOODS

GLOSS has reserved 4 campsites at The Woods Campground for the "Summer Gaymes" weekend, 27-29 July 2007. They are sites 69 thru 72. If you would like to share these sites, please let GLOSS know ASAP by emailing Info@gloss.org. Show your ability and teamwork in the Wacky Olympics competition, volleyball tournament, and home made raft race on the lake. Prizes for the winning athletes! Show off your athletic physique at Friday's Tighty Whitey Party and Saturday's Loin Cloth Party!

**LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION
OR BUSINESS RESOURCE
AT www.padiversity.org**

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RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

GLOSS GAME NIGHT

The next GLOSS game night will take place on Tuesday, July 24 starting at 7pm. The location is Conway's BBQ Restaurant, 2071 31st St SW, Allentown. Conway's has graciously offered their space and will also be offering GLOSS members discounts on food. So, even if you're not into board games, GLOSS invites you to eat, drink, and have a gay ole time.

For questions and information please email Info@gloss.org.

TOUCHSTONE SCHEDULE

July 13. A Touchstone Theatre Firehouse Friday event: Writer's Soiree hosted by the Greater Lehigh Valley Writer's Group. 8pm/\$5. Touchstone Theatre. 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem. 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org.

July 20. A Touchstone Theatre Firehouse Friday event: HipHop Collective hosted by RedSun Productions. 9pm/\$5. Touchstone Theatre. 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem. 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org.

July 16-27: Camp Touchstone will be in session. Camp Touchstone is a summer theatre camp for children ages 8-12. Morning Session, 9am - 12 noon. Full Day Session, 9am - 4pm. Morning Session, \$200; Full Day Session, \$350. Please call 610-867-1689 with questions or visit www.touchstone.org. At Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem.

HAZLETON PFLAG

New Hazleton PFLAG Chapter-- Meets the first Tuesday of each month, Hazleton YM/YWCA at 75 South Church Street., Hazleton. 7:00pm. Timothy Hibbler, President. Info: 570-459-0385, pflag@hazleton@yahoo.com. The Hazleton Chapter was started in March of 2007 and is a support group for GLBT people, their families and friends. This organization also participates in social outings that include all members and their families and friends.

REMEMBER THAT THE AUGUST - SEPTEMBER VGP IS COMBINED

FROM OMICRON

The Nature Line - A World Premiere Event, Written by J.C. Lee. Directed by Adrian Anchondo, FEATURING Original OTP members: Dina Percia, Christopher Morris and Megan Ridge OTP Associate Artist: Becca Schneider. As well as special guest appearances from: Diane Wagner, Louise Howard, Abby Roman, Troy Brokenshire, Doug Atkins, and Alex Rice. August 16th - Sept 1st The Civic Theatre of Allentown, Theatre 514, 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown.

NEWS FROM ADRIAN SHANKER NEW PDN BOARD MEMBER & MUHLENBERG COLLEGE STUDENT.

I'm interning for a progressive non profit called Faith In Public Life - the goal of which is to try to strengthen and mobilize the progressive faith community (much like Rabbi Michael Lerner discusses in his book "Left Hand of God")

I was inspired to work for these issues after seeing first hand the strength of the conservative faith communities - everywhere I went, they were united (in opposition) whether it was anti choice protesters at the supreme court, gender essentialists countering the work I was engaged in at GenderPAC, so-called "Family Advocates" at the hill during the Marriage Amendment votes, or war sympathizers during the Israel-Lebanon war. After reading up on the progressive faith communities in books by "The Bush is Burning" by Arthur Waskow, "The Left Hand of God" by Michael Lerner, and "Like Bread on the Seder Plate" by Rebecca Alpert (among other writings) I realized that this movement is all encompassing and has a good chance at ending the conservative monopoly on religion in American life.

Faith in Public Life works as a resource base to strengthen faith groups in their efforts to fight global warming, stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, end the use of torture, reduce poverty both here and abroad, provide just, comprehensive, and compassionate immigration reform, and guarantee equal civil rights for all people. FPL works with a diversity of progressive faith leaders including Rebecca Alpert, Rev. James Forbes, Rev. Jim Wallis, Rabbi David Saperstein, and many others -- I feel very lucky to work here.

Please check out the website, : www.faithinpubliclife.org. You can read my blog posts, and see my staff bio!!!! Also, I highly recommend signing up for our daily progressive faith news, its one email a day with all the news you need to read!Tzedek Vrachamim (Justice and Compassion),

GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> e-mail: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

Coming events: Saturday, July 21. Nel's annual picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. You bring a dish share, a game or two, and a lawn chair. Gather at 1 pm for some fun in the sun. Contact GLORA for more information and directions.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville- 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown - August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4
Monroe - September 19, December 19
Reading - September 18, October 16, November 20

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

the woman who is
EASILY ANGERED points
out AN INCONSISTENCY.

those COMPANIES WITH
the highest numbers
of FEMALE CORPORATE
OFFICERS HAD, ON AVERAGE,
A 34% HIGHER RETURN
to SHAREHOLDERS than
those with the lowest
PERCENTAGE.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training, and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

MCCLV CHURCH PICNIC

On Saturday, July 28 from Noon - 6 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host its annual picnic at Emmaus Community Park. All are welcome. MCCLV's pavillion is the "Women's Pavilion," next to the swimmingpool.

MCC HOSTS FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, October 27, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host a Tricky Tray fundraiser. A tricky tray is like basket bingo and all are welcome to take part in this event to raise funds for MCCLV's ministry in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. More details soon in the Valley Gay Press.

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15, 2007 - PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

August 19 - PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival.

Mid October, 2007 -- Bingo! The Community had a great time at our Bingo event in 2006 and we'll be doing it again in 2007. If you represent a business, please consider donating a Bingo prize.

October 13, 2007 - PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBTA community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

16,17,18 November -- PDN Holiday Art Show at the PDN Gallery in Allentown

Mid December 2007 - Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is co-sponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email berkgmsg@aol.com, web site at: WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM.

MCCLV'S BANQUET SCHEDULED

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's Annual Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 at the Barrister's Club in Allentown. All are welcome, more details soon.

SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

CALL ME
CRAZY, BUT
DOESN'T
IT SEEM
THAT COM-
PANIES WITH
WOMEN
EXECUTIVES
MAKE MORE
MONEY?



WOULDN'T IT BE
RATIONAL TO
CONSIDER THIS
FACTOR WHEN
MAKING EMPLOY-
MENT DECISIONS?

Nicole Hollander 12-13

HONEY, SOME
HABITS ARE
HARD TO BREAK.
HAVE I TOLD
YOU HOW I
LOVE THE WAY
YOU LOOK WHEN
RIGHTOUS FRE
MAKES YOUR HAIR CURL?

SOOZ VIEWS 5

By Sue Snearinger

Random thoughts this month...Rosie O'Donnell may end up replacing Bob Barker on "The Price Is Right." Since no one seems to object to any of the multitude of ways Rosie puts her MONEY where her MOUTH is, I say go and make another bundle, girlfriend. There are some kids somewhere who will be very grateful for the help you will surely give. The kind that's central to your activism, the kind Bill O'Reilly will, no doubt, forget to mention next time you're the whipping girl du jour.

I predict that one of these days soon, in his continuing quest to be relevant, O'Reilly himself will emerge as a closet secular progressive, right about the time that the dominant political mood leans left of center again....NBC is courting Jon (Smartest Man on TV) Stewart. Please, please, PLEASE stay on cable, Jon-Boy. Where there is much less danger of your particularly twisted brilliance being tainted!

...Reaction to "The Sopranos" finale was amusing, I thought. Some of the theories of what it all meant are more "out there" than anything David Chase ever conceived, I'm sure. I especially enjoyed the way everyone on Philly sports talk radio, WIP, picked the corpse clean. Ray Diddinger, one of the best minds on football and usually a very soft-spoken fellow, was angry because he felt it was Chase's job to really END the show, not give us all twenty-seven ways to interpret the final scene. Something concrete. Something black and white. Something that wouldn't give us the heartburn that usually comes with sausage and peppers. Tony's head on a platter, side of clams, probably. Something that would, of course, negate the approach to this material displayed consistently by Chase in every episode since the beginning of the series.

There was NEVER anything black and white or finite about "The Sopranos." Me? I thought the last show and the entire run were nothing short of brilliant, like its creator and the many players, especially Gandolfini and Falco. Like everyone, I screamed at the cable company when the screen went black. Later I decided it was Tony starting over again, clean slate. Trying to have a life of meaning. Fooling himself that he will do what it takes to make that happen. Trying to be grateful, in that moment, to have his family there with him. Safe. Coping. The tension in that dinner was lovely and meant to fool, I think (and didn't you adore that death sequence in the train store the previous episode?...sorry, Bobby!). All those shots of "normal" people, families, together, happy. At the last, Tony wanting to be normal in a way he never will be...

Kudos to the Hillary campaign for doing a takeoff on the finale to announce her new campaign song. I thought she and Bill were cute and funny there. Love or hate her, it's very smart politics to get that side of her out there...Way to go, Ellen, on Emmy #3, beating "The View." The problem with giving Rosie and Joy Behar an Emmy is that you have to give one to Babs and Elizabeth, too...Enjoy the summer!

GIFTED VOCALIST AT MCCLV JULY 22

On Sunday, July 22 Orgena Rose will share her music and dance ministry at MCCLV at 6 p.m. Gena is a very gifted vocalist and previously shared her gift of song at MCCLV's 2003 building dedication. Read more about Rose's ministry at www.orgenarose.com.

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES - a delightful musical comedy for children ages 4 - 12 Book and lyrics by Lynn Ahers, Music by Stephen Flaherty. An original musical based on the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

The Emperor's New Clothes: June 27-August 4, Wed-Thu-Fri 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. and Sat 10 am Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance. Tickets \$9 General Admission.

Lynn Ahers and Stephen Flaherty, the talented writers of the hit Broadway musicals Ragtime and Suessical, add song and dance and a castle full of characters to Hans Christian Andersen's classic and delightful tale - The Emperor's New Clothes. In this stage musical for children, Emperor Marcus the Third is only 14 years old. As he worries how he can possibly run an empire, he foolishly accepts the credo that "clothes make the man" and soon finds himself in a royal mess! Directed by Muhlenberg alum Phil Haas, The Emperor's New Clothes is a story that will appeal to adults and children alike. Set in the 1920s, its energy, fun, and charisma conceal an underlying moral that audiences will carry with them long after the performance is over. "You realize that friends, your heart, love, all come first. Everything else is second," explains Haas.

Visit the website or call the box office to receive a complete season brochure. The mainstage subscription season of the summer program includes Nonsense, Fiddler on the Roof, and Pump Boys & Dinettes. Each performs Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., with NEW Saturday afternoon performances at 2 p.m. designated as 'Family Day' shows. For these performances only, one youth ticket is offered free for each adult or senior ticket purchased for the same show. These free youth tickets are not available online. Please call or email to reserve Family Day tickets.

SUMMER THEATRE BOX OFFICE INFORMATION -- Tickets to **THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES** are available by calling the Theatre Box Office (484-664-3333) in the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance on the Muhlenberg College campus or by visiting the website at www.summerbroadway.org. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$9, with a special group rate of \$7 for 15 or more. For information on group sales, please email: boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

MCCLV OFFERS "DISCIPLE 101"

From a highly successful series at Jesus MCC in Indianapolis, MCC Lehigh Valley begins "Disciple 101" this June! ALL are welcome, no materials needed, just yourself. To register, contact MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy at 610-709-8800 or e-mail rev.goudy@mcclv.org. Schedule: Tuesdays thru July 31 at 7 pm & Saturdays thru July 28 at 10 am. August classes to be determined.

MCC ATTENDS SOFTBALL

On Sunday, June 24 following its morning worship service, 30 people from Metropolitan Community Church Lehigh Valley attended a Philadelphia Force women's softball game at ECTB Park in Allentown. The Force played the Chinese National Team and MCCLV was mentioned over the loudspeaker. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, fun and supporting women's athletics.

FROM PRIDE OF THE GREATER LV

Just a reminder that the Pride in the Park Festival 2007 is on Sunday, Aug 19 from 12-6p. Great entertainment this year includes Jason and DeMarco as headliners as well as Pepper Machay, Goddess and She, Anthony Rodriguez and host Derek from the "Derek and Romaine" show on Sirius Q Out Radio. Pride is looking for volunteers for the festival, if interested please contact info@prideglv.org.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK-see FACT
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
BMA - Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>
CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahooroups.com.
Enigma Players - qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com
FACT - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GaydarMagazine - www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranchollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.gloria.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org
GLOW - at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity-Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE - GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo-groups.com, www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvgmc.org, <www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, [mcclv.org](http://www.mcclv.org) 610-709-8800
Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
NCC - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There-Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org
PARENTS-GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-papflag.org

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC HMF GLOSS WDIY RCP	2 RAA 19th St. Movie	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	5 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM	6	7 GLOSS
8 WDIY UUCLV HMF GLOSS	9 19th St. Movie RAA	10 LVGMC	11 SPECTRUM TEJAS	12 RAA MCC FILM GLOSS	13 Touchstone	14 WDIY
15 MCC Reading PRIDE	16 RAA 19th St. Movie	17 R PFLAG LVGMC	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	20 Touchstone	21 WDIY Gloss Gloria Picnic
22 GLOSS Interweave MC Muhlenberg	23 19th St. Movie RAA	24 GLOS Touchstone Game Night LVGMC	25 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS	27 Touchstone	28 MCC Picnic Harrisburg Pr GLOSS GLOSS
29 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS GLOSS MCC	30 RAA	31				

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS	3	4 WDIY GLOSS
5 MCC Pride Pagent	6 RAA	7 LV PFLAG Hazleton PFLAG	8 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	9 RAA GLOSS	10	11 WDIY Knoebel
12 WDIY UUCLV MCC HMF	13 RAA	14 LVGMC R PFLAG	15 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	16 GLOSS Omicron RAA P PFLAG	17 Omicron	18 WDIY GLOSS
19 GLV Pride	20 Interweave RAA	LVGMC	22 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS	24 Omicron	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	27 RAA	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 GLOSS RAA	31 Omicron	

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS Omicron WDIY
2	3 RAA 19th St. Movie	4 LV PFLAG LVGMC	5 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA	7 19th St. Movie	8 WDIY
10 FACT Summer Games	11 RAA	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	14 RAA GLOSS	15 GLOSS WDIY	
16 Interweave MCC	17 RAA 19th St. Movie	18 R PFLAG LVGMC	19 M PFLAG HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21 19th St. Movie	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 MCC	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 GLOSS WDIY MCC Banquet
30	31					

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@pridegv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~instual/lpsa/whatsa.htm
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator-1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluca@msn.com
Ren Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., drcleets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQ Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA 2ND MONS
LYGM 3RD MONS
MCCLV 4TH MONS
PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
HAZELTON PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
GLOSS TENNIS - TUES & SUNS
MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LY HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN MURRAY RESALE CAMP - 1ST THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 1ST THURS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL - THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
MCCLV MENS GRP - SUN

JUL 1-2-19TH STREET FILM
JUL 5 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUL 12 - MCC FILM SERIES
JUL 13 - TOUCHSTONE
JUL 15 - READING PRIDE
JUL 22 - TOUCHSTONE
JUL 15-22 - 19TH STREET FILM
JUL 16-27 - TOUCHSTONE CAMP
JUL 17 - MCCLV PICNIC
JUL 21-29 - 19TH STREET FILM
JUL 24 - GLOSS GAME NITE
JUL 22-AUG 4 - MULHENBERG PLAY
JUL 27-29 - GLOSS GAMES WKND
JUL 28 - MCCLV PICNIC
JUL 28 - HARRISBURG PRIDE
JUL 28-AUG 5 - 19TH STREET FILM
AUG 5 - LY PRIDE PAGEANT
AUG 6 - MCCLV PICNIC
AUG 7 - HAZELTON PFLAG
AUG 11 - PICNIC@KNOEBELS
AUG 16-SEPT 1 - OMICRON@TO
AUG 19 - GLV PRIDE
SEPT 4 - ALLEN TOWN PFLAG
SEPT 4 - HAZELTON PFLAG
SEPT 9 - FACT SUMMER GAMES
SEPT 18 - READING PFLAG
SEPT 19 - MULHENBERG
SEPT 24 - MCCLV PICNIC
OCT 7 - FACT AIDS WALK
OCT 27 - MCCLV TRICKY TRAY
NOV 16-18 - PDN ART SHOW
DEC 3 - FACT SNOWBALL



LIZ OUT LOUD BERKS GRANT MONEY?

By Liz Bradbury

A few weeks ago we received an email flyer that said:

Focus Group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents of Adoptive, Foster Care, and Biological Children. **Purpose:** Discuss and Assess Support Needs for LGBT Parents and their Children. **Who:** For LGBT Residents of Berks County. **When:** Monday, June 25, 2007, 7 pm - 9 pm. **Where:** Kissinger Lutheran Church, Wyoming. **Supported by:** Pride Bride (sic) Builders of Diakon Family Life Services. Dr. Jen Schlegel, PhD and Mark E. Kenney M.Ed., NCC, LPC. **Sponsored by:** The Diversity Alliance Fund of Berks County Community Foundation (BCCF). For Additional Information Contact: Ms. Louisa Weber, 610-682-1337.

PDN received a \$20,000 grant 1 1/2 years ago from the BCCF to expand and circulate the Valley Gay Press into Berks County. And we've been successful. We expanded our Berks VGP mailing list from 5 to more than 300 GLBTA people. We added a Berks columnist, we increased the paper by 4 pages to add extensive Berks information and we added a dozen Berks drop-off spots. And with the help of BCCF grant money through PFLAG, we now circulate the VGP through all Berks public libraries. We've worked with Berks groups like Reading Pride, and we've done presentations to Berks organizations like Berks Women in Crisis, Reading PFLAG, Berks County GSA, Fountainhead Books and at the Reading Pride Fundraiser. And we've expanded our website Resource list to include many Berks County resources, businesses and orgs.

Meanwhile, Spectrum at Reading Planned Parenthood got a \$15,000 grant to begin their GLBTA youth support meetings and has been directly supporting 20 to 35 GLBT youth every week for over a year. The grant money for both PDN and Spectrum is about to run out. Costs for direct services are high, but both groups have done an excellent job fulfilling the mission of the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership which gave the BCCF \$100,000 in matching grant funds. The NLGCF earmarks its grant money to be used specifically for GLBT equality and justice.

So, we were interested in what Diakon Lutheran Family Service had done with the reported \$60,000 they received from BCCF to support the Berks GLBT community.

The first thing I did was check the credentials on line for both Dr. Jen Schlegel, PhD and Mark E. Kenney M.Ed. I couldn't find anything for Dr. Schlegel and I was surprised to see on his web site that though Mark Kenney had done a great deal of work with his wife on interracial family support, he did not list any GLBT issue presentations. Still it's the work, not the creds, that matter so we decided to go to the meeting and ask questions.

At Kissinger Lutheran Church, the only person there introduced herself as Louisa Weber. By 7:10 pm no one else had shown. We were surprised to learn that Dr. Jen Schlegel and Mark E. Kenney were not coming. Ms. Weber explained that it had not actually said they would be there in the text of the flyer. After I explained I was doing a VGP article, Ms. Weber told us, (when I asked), that neither Schlegel nor Kenney was GLBT. She went on to explain that this was not a presentation about the work that Diakon was doing, it was a focus group to get GLBT parents to tell Diakon about their needs. Meeting advertising had been sent out through Swan - the PA Adoption Network and an email to Reading PFLAG.

Ms. Weber told us that there had been one previous meeting that was attended by (at most) two couples. Those couples indicated that one of their needs was a place for their kids to meet with other GLBT family youth. I asked if they were told that there are several places in the area for kids of GLBT families to share or be social with other GLBT family kids: Spectrum, Haven, Rainbow Families, MCC, PFLAG, the High School GSAs, GLORA. (All those groups are mentioned in the VGP.) But no, they hadn't been told that. Ms. Weber said that the previous couples had promised to come to this meeting and bring other GLBT parents. I asked, "Why do you think they did not come back?" No response.

She said Dr. Schlegel had been working in the last year, "To see if there is room in the school system to provide support for youth dealing with their identities." Ms. Weber also told us that Diakon had held a focus group for GLBT elders to assess their needs. 12 people had attended. Among the elder's suggestions: Diakon should give domestic partner benefits to its employees and, retirement housing and care for GLBT seniors. Ms. Weber told us that the Lutheran Senior care facility in Topton would have to work to educate its staff and residents to be GLBT supportive and that Diakon does not give benefits.

Ms. Weber said I should call the coordinators for further answers. So instead of asking questions, I pointed out a few things: 1. Straight advertising often doesn't reach the GLBT community. 2. Meeting attendees often prefer places that do not have exclusionary policies. Lutherans will not hire GLBT people to be their leaders and do not recognize GLBT families. Would they expect racial minority members to come to a place that would not hire them or recognize their relationships? 3. It seems counterproductive to keep asking people what their needs are - wouldn't it have been better to just hire a consultant that already knew what the needs of GLBT families were? 4. And finally: It was distressing that though Diakon has had \$60,000 for 1 1/2 years it seems to have not used a penny for direct services for GLBT people. Working, "To see if there is room in the school system to provide support," is many steps away from actual support. The meeting ended at 7:38 pm.

Let's hope that Diakon has a plan for direct service to the GLBT community that Ms. Weber just didn't know about. Stay tuned.



PLANET Parenthood

donnearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

TWO FATHERS ARE BETTER THAN NONE

A friend recently sent us an email with a copy of a recent Time magazine article by Sarah Blaffer Hrdy and Mary Batten, titled "The Psychology of Fatherhood." Not minimizing the potential role of fathers in the family at all, this article was truly appropriate for the Father's Day season and in its take on fatherhood. It focuses in on the reality that fathers do not or are not able to spend as much time in their children's lives as they should. But, it goes on to point out the potential that fathers do have in raising children; noting that in some South African cultures more than one man may take on fatherly duties in a family. Maybe fathers in our society are not given as much credit as they deserve or do not realize the impact they can make in the lives of their children.

Our son Lucas is being brought up by two fathers... us. Thank goodness there are two of us. It's hard to imagine going it alone. How do single mothers do it? Or married women with husbands that don't get home from work until the children are ready for bed? Or single fathers? Yikes. As two dads trying to raise just one child we feel we deserve at least a small handicap. So far it has been a bumpy ride. From the initial adoption process, to trying to comfort a crying baby, ... feeding, changing, teething, potty training...and that is the easy stuff. We have not hit the pre-teen and teen years, God forbid. That is years away.

We have been lucky. We know a lot of moms. They have been a big help to us. We would have been lost without them. We admire the moms. They seem to be able to do it all. And the lesbian moms, wow...they are like supermoms. When two ladies get together and start a family, the motherhood instinct just seems to multiply tenfold and they can do anything. We are in awe of them. We have seen them in action. One is breastfeeding the baby and doing laundry and the other one is building a crib, with one hand, and taking a call on the cell phone from work in the other, all in the time it took us to figure out which is the front and which is the back of a diaper. Yeah, this was the easy stuff all right.

Lucas is three now. Maybe this is the easy stuff. He can walk, he can talk, he can get up and turn the TV on and watch while we sleep in a bit longer (not really sleep...that's not possible with a toddler toddling, but we can lie awhile longer). He is potty trained and proud of it. He tells everyone that he pooped in the potty. He answers the phone and tells the telemarketers that he pooped in the potty. Thank you, Lucas. We got scratched off one more list.

So, it looks like the two dads have come along OK and are getting a bit of respite right now. We need it because, we know we will be raising this boy for the rest of our lives. A parent's role never ends. So to all you gay fathers out there, hang in there, we feel for you, but you have a lot of potential...so go for it. To all you mothers out there, we just have to say you are just so awesome.

8



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, Could you please provide my partner and me with some quick tips as to how to improve our financial situation? I'm tired of living from pay check to paycheck, but we've been unable to save any money for an extended period of time and it's placed a huge strain on our relationship. Signed, Hand to Mouth

Dear H2M, To get you on track for taking control of your financial situation. Consider trying these 8 steps.

1. SAVE: Do not confuse saving money with spending less, as in "I save money when I buy things on sale." Saving money means you actually put money into a safe place for some future time. Do that. Starting right now and furthermore, make it a rule that you will put some amount of your paycheck into a savings account before you spend any of it. Make it automatic and you won't miss what you don't see. Goal: 10% of all you receive goes into savings.

2. GIVE: It truly is amazing what can happen when you give money to those in need. It comes back tri-fold. Sounds silly, but try it.

3. LIVE: Rein in your lifestyle so that it fits into 80 percent of your net income. You don't need half of what you purchase. The sneakers you have will carry you thru the next season. They may be one year out of style, but no one has ever told me that my sneakers are not trendy enough and if they do...NEXT.

4. CREDIT: You need only one credit card. Pick the MasterCard or Visa you or your partner have had for the longest time and cut up ALL of the others. If you have a balance on the one card you will keep, do not carry it with you. You have given up that privilege until you are able to pay it down to zero every month. I personally am an advocate of each you and your partner maintaining your own credit card independently.

5. DEBT: The only debt safe for you and your partner should carry is secured debt (mortgage, auto or anything with collateral). All others are dangerous to your wealth. Design a plan that allows you to pay off all your credit-card debts quickly.

6. CASH: It's proven that you will spend about 30 percent more if you depend on plastic to pay for day-to-day spending. Leave the plastic at home. Live as much as possible with cash.

Inconvenient? Yes...that's the point.

7. PLAN: Our society wants you to believe that living spontaneously brings freedom. Just the opposite is true. Have you ever come out of a bar and said, "Where did all my money go?". You need to have a spending plan (a way that you "pre-spend" your paycheck on paper) so that you know ahead of time where the money will go. Write it down and then stick to it.

8. GET SUPPORT: Know that you are not alone—there are thousands of people getting control of their financial lives, too. Go to www.everydaycheapskate.com to sign up to receive daily support and encouragement in your e-mail box. No one said this was easy. You both have continued to do what you have always done for an extended period of time. Change is difficult.

I certainly hope that these 8 steps have encouraged you and your partner to start somewhere in achieving wealth.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com Phone 610.439.7000

**PLANET PARENTHOOD COLUMNISTS
DONNIE AND EARL SNYDER, LEAD
RAINBOW FAMILIES, THE GROUP FOR
GLBTA FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. READ
ABOUT IT IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES
SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**



READING PRIDE VENDORS, EVENTS

The Reading Pride Festival is Sunday July 15th, 2007 12-6pm in Centre Park, in Reading's Historic District

Event Schedule:

12PM-1 PM: DJ Bill E

Speaker: Stewart Willman, Reading Pride - Welcome Address

Performer: Whitley Nycole DeAire', Miss Tally Ho 2007

Performer: Ria La Rue, Miss Lancaster America 2007

Performer: Joey Josephs, Miss Lark 2005

Speaker: Liz Bradbury, Executive Director Pa Diversity Network

Performer: Tiffany North

Performer: Precious Calente

Performer: Dick Latex Jr. & Friends.

Speaker: Jennifer Long c/o Humane Society of Berks Co.

Performer: Whitley Nycole DeAire', Miss Tally Ho 2007

Performer: Ria La Rue, Miss Lancaster America 2007

Performer: Joey Josephs, Miss Lark 2005

Speaker: Rev. Sandra Fees, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks Co.

Performer: Tiffany North

Performer: Precious Calente

Performer: Teri

Speaker: John Riviera Quakers

Speaker: Chico Perez, Chicomax

Speaker: Steve Glassman, Chairperson Pa. Human Relations Commission

Speaker: Dan Anders, Candidate for Judge Court of Common Pleas Dist. 1

Speaker: Mayor Thomas M McMahon, Mayor Reading Pa Commitment Ceremony

Performer: Miss Reading American Illusion 2007

Performer: Bianca De Monet, Miss Reading Illusion 2006

Performer: Denise De Jour

Speaker: Jake Kaski, Education & Outreach Coordinator Equality Advocates Pennsylvania

Performer: Willie

Performer: Honey B, Miss Pennsylvania Illusion 2006

Performer: Alexxus Kane, Miss American Illusion Grand Diva

Performer: Bianca De Monet, Miss Reading Illusion 2006

Performer: Denise De Jour

Speaker: Stewart Willman - Introduction of Committee Members

Speaker: John Durkin, Vice President Reading Pride - Membership Drive for 2008

Performer: Willie

Performer: Bobby

Performer: Alexxus & Geri

Performer: Genesis Theatre scenes from Grease

Tea Dance Djs Bill E & Evelyn

Food Vendors:

Johnny s Pizza

Jerry s Concessions

City Espresso

Stephan s Concessions

Reading Railmen Inc.

Non-Food Business Vendors

Vived Cruises

The Pampered Chef

Noah s Biscuit Barn and Bakery

Divine Canine Creations

Action Center / Action PA

Diversities

Avant Gardens

Repulsion

Fabulous Glass

Lee Lotz - Artist

Non-Profit Vendors

Humane Society of Berks County

Eastern PA PFLAG (Includes

Reading/Berks)

BerksAids Network

Reading Friends Meeting

Pennsylvania Diversity Network

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Berks County

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

Spectrum

Berks Gay Man s Social Club

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania

American Illusion National Pageant

PA Diversity Network has registered on GoodSearch. PDN will receive a direct donation every time supporters use GoodSearch to search the Internet! Just go to www.goodsearch.com and choose PA Diversity Network to receive the donation each time you search.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender

Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCLV)

-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown
Most Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),
Reading Community Theatre - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network
Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA
48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St., Reading

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org. To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s _____
 Address _____
 City _____ zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Senior dues (over 65) \$5
 Individual dues \$15
 Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
 Make checks payable to PDN.

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP

DUES. Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a 2007 subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR PDN DUES ON LINE! JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

19TH STREET FILMS THEATRE 514, 610-432-8943

All films play in the 19th Street Theatre (the big one), 527 N. 19th Street. (The third week of Sicko runs in our Theatre 514, 514 N. 19th Street).

July 1 - 22 - Sicko - The latest film from Michael Moore (Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11), Sicko explores the health care system in the United States, in comparison with other countries. **July 15 - 22 - Away from Her** - A man coping with the institutionalization of his wife (Julie Christie) because of Alzheimer's disease faces an epiphany when she transfers her affections to another man, Aubrey, a wheel chair-bound mute who also is a patient at the nursing home. **July 21 - 29 - Stephanie Daley** - Pregnant forensic psychologist Lydie Crane is hired to learn the truth behind the case of 16-year-old Stephanie Daley, who is accused of concealing her pregnancy and murdering her infant. **July 28 - Aug. 5 - La Vie en Rose** - A swirling, impressionistic portrait of an artist who regretted nothing, La Vie en Rose tells the story of legendary French icon Edith Piaf.

RANTS & RAVES[©]

BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

CONDITIONAL LOVE

Is it written in stone somewhere that we have to back our gay and lesbian sisters and brothers no matter what? I hope not. Cause a couple of them are pissing me off. I used to love them but now they receive more notoriety for their misbehavior than their talent. There are minor infractions.

Case in point: How many times can George Michael be fined and do community service before they toss his butt in the pokey? That's right I used butt and pokey in the same sentence. I was a huge Wham! fan that followed George throughout his solo career. Unfortunately, George has been mad the world since he was outed by an undercover officer seeking pleasure in a public restroom in LA. I saw him rant against the audience at the Equality Rocks concert at the Millennium March in DC. And, he's still an angry, bitter 40-something year old who needs to fade away or find something that motivates him to care about himself and others. How about a Wham! reunion tour? What could Andrew Ridgely possibly be doing these days? Aside from not getting arrested every couple of months for drug use, I mean.

The current major infraction: What the heck is going on with Rosie O'Donnell? I loved her inclusion to the panel of four on the View. One, because it meant no one would have to hear from Star Jones again. Two, she is a truly gifted comedienne and she is one of the most generous hosts on TV. Right from the get-go, it was really Rosie's The View. Like Diana Ross & the Supremes. Anyway, she wanted The View to be controversial, but left after a spat with Elizabeth Hasselbeck, an opinionated conservative for sure, but not really one of the great minds of the century. This was too challenging for our Rosie? She only had a few weeks left on her contract. She acted like and looked to millions of "View'ers like a spoiled brat. Then we see her drinking beer while attending her website and blog.

I've written before in this space what a breath of fresh air Rosie O'Donnell was to daytime television. Now, she could use a good rinse of Listerine, followed by an Altoid topped off with a tongue scraping. Since her departure she has gone on to dish and insult her former View co-hosts and others. Rosie is currently a bully who is unable to play by anyone's rules but her own, that she makes up as she goes along. She's even using the stage of Cyndi Lauper's unifying True Colors Tour as a platform for her hate-filled brand of humor.

Rosie and to a lesser degree George, need to realize that therapy, not the stage, is the best place to work on their bitterness. There's a difference between playful hate like Kathy Griffen and Margaret Cho. Maybe they're not playing, but I feel like they are, and I'm in on the joke. Rosie just seems bitter and angry and I don't want to hear it anymore.

Latest word is that she was contacting the production team behind The Price is Right about replacing Bob Barker. Is your brow furrowed like mine right now? I can see Ellen hosting "Price...", but Rosie? Rosie could start a new game show called: The Price is Wrong and Go to Hell, Especially if Your Name is Donald or Trump or Elizabeth or Hasselbeck or Kelly Ripa or any Variation of Those Names With Others to be Added Later at my Discretion.

LIZ OUT LOUD IS ON PAGE 7

MCC GENERAL CONFERENCE

From July 2-6, four representatives from Metropolitan Community Church LV will be attending the MCC denominational General Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Jen Andrews, Clarence Freed, Rev. Beth Goudy and Vanessa Taggart will be participating in a variety of workshops, business meetings and worship services. Thousands of people from MCCs around the world will be in attendance. See www.MccChurch.org for more information.

TRISH'S COLUMN[©]

By Patricia Sullivan

GLBT RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Where are you going to spend your retirement years? Have you thought about it? At least one third of lesbian and one fifth of gay male households have children, but every parent knows it's a gamble to count on living with you kids in old age. Your retirement may be your most important investment, more important than many other big ticket costs. Remember there are scholarships and financial aid for kids to go to college, but there are no scholarships for retirement.

While it may not be for everyone, lots of aging baby boomers consider GLBT residential communities as a retirement option as a way to ensure opportunities for GLBT socialization and support. Today many GLBT residential communities provide transitional living opportunities for their residents. That appeals to many seniors who fear they will face discrimination from health and social services providers in mainstream retirement settings or that they will be forced back into the closet in order to get by as they age and require increasing levels of support. Beside the amenities GLBT vacation and retirement communities tout in their promotional materials, I recommend you consider several things that may not be included:

1. Do the laws of the state or jurisdiction where the village is located protect your civil rights? Is the community at large welcoming?

2. Are the community association rules consistent with your values and life style? Association rules can be quite restrictive. Many GLBT baby boomers have waited for retirement to come out because they feared loss of financial security due to job discrimination. Some see coming out in retirement as an opportunity to become more politically and socially active. But don't assume that because it's a GLBT identified community, it will be out and proud. We looked at a lesbian community in St. Augustine that was incredibly closeted. And after friends of ours bought a condo in another popular GLBT residential community, they were told not to display any rainbow flags or bumper stickers because other residents were afraid that neighbor's rainbow flags would out them to their homophobic children and family. Ultimately they moved because they weren't comfortable being even more closeted than they had been in their former mainstream neighborhood.

3. Do the community's programs and activities fit your interests and financial situation?

4. Does the community discriminate based on age? Many retirement communities are for persons over 50 and do not permit children.

5. Does the complex have or plan to develop assisted living and/or nursing home facilities?

Forty-seven percent of GLBT baby boomers want to spend their last days in their own homes and one in five fear dying alone. Some retirement communities have life transition plans where as your health status changes you can easily move from one level of independence to another without having to relocate outside the complex. Transition options keep an aging individual close to the friends and family of choice they have developed in the community.

There are a variety of established GLBT retirement communities. These communities include a residential hotel for men in Ohio, trailer parks in the Sun Belt, specialized care facilities in urban centers and a range of homes and home-sites for individuals and families. For links to examples of GLBT communities and the services they offer go to our web site: www.padiversity.org and check retirement communities in the Resource section.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



POP QUIZ 12

1. Whose 1995 memoir "Take It Like a Man" officially confirmed he was gay?

2. Who sang, "I Kissed a Girl"?

3. N' Sync's _____ came out on the cover of a 2006 People Magazine.

4. Well, I'm not the world's most masculine man. But I know what I am and I'm glad that I'm a man. And so is _____.

5. Before its cleaned up release in 1955, Little Richard's lyrics to ___ included the second line "Loose Booty."

6. Whose 1993 Album "Yes I Am" flouted Don't Ask Don't Tell?

7. R.E.M. long time front man _____ identified as queer in Time magazine in 2001.

8. In 2006, who recorded an identical set of songs as Judy Garland's Carnegie Hall come back concert of 1961?

9. In 1998, Rob Halford came out in an MTV interview. He was a front man in the band _____.

10. Lesbian singer/composer _____ has been performing for two decades as part of a duo, has had two solo albums, "Stag" and "Prom" and has two lesbian older sisters.

1. Boy George 2. Jill Sobel 3. Lance Bass 4. Leona Lewis 5. Tuff Enuff 6. Melissa Etheridge 7. Michael Steele 8. Rufus Wainwright 9. Judds Prest 10. Amy Ray

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Gayellow Pages US/Canada" edited by Frances Green \$23.95

The Gayellow Pages is an GLBT information institution. It's been around for nearly 35 years, giving GLBT people and their friends ready access to information on what kind of gay friendly services are available in every US State and Canada. Easy to follow data is arranged alphabetically by state and then city. Each location includes a list of businesses and organizations arranged alphabetically by type. There are separate sections especially for women only, ethnic/multicultural, and Canada. The company also produces international and regional guides.

Sure, one could always search on-line and probably find even more specific GLBT data, but there's a portability and readability about the Gayellow Pages that makes it essential for any GLBT traveler, even if it's just for a day trip. Moving to a new community? Going away to college? Visiting the relatives for the Holidays? Grab the Gayellow Pages to tell you what's there and what's welcoming.

And on the other side of the coin, any organization can list themselves for free in the Gayellow Pages by contacting the editor and then just filling out a form. Many Lehigh Valley organizations, businesses and groups are listed. If yours isn't, contact: gayyellowpages.com to list.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon race or color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide dog. These are areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hashalom

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP
to list your organization

QUOTE #1

"This legislation is critical to thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians who are trying to work and have a roof over their heads. I urge the legislature to move this legislation forward. It is needed. It is fair. It is time," - Stacey Sobel, executive director of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania.

QUOTE #2

The (Civil Rights Bill)'s sponsor, Rep. Dan Frankel (D) told a news conference that without a civil rights law Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states Maryland, New Jersey and New York that already have legislation. "More and more people inside and outside this building understand that being gay or transgendered has nothing to do with your ability to fix a car or computer, to show up on time and to do a good day's work," Frankel said.

QUOTE #3

"We are very encouraged by the record number of legislators who have signed on as co-sponsors of this bill and we think it is a good sign for future progress," -- Larry Frankel, legislative director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania.

QUOTE #4

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

QUOTE #5

"The City of Philadelphia's Home Rule Charter and the City's Fair Practices Ordinance reflect broad City policy abhorring discrimination and the Boy Scouts' policy and conduct is directly contrary to the principles of equal access and opportunity enshrined in Philadelphia law....[T]he City's ongoing subsidy of a discriminatory organization through the allowance of free use of a building is directly contrary to the City's policy and practice of refusing to support discrimination, and of ensuring non-discriminatory access to City benefits."

--Philadelphia City Council voting to terminate the 1928 ordinance granting the Boy Scouts' Cradle of Liberty Council rent-free use of a building in Philadelphia due to its practice of sexual orientation discrimination.

QUOTE #6

"The other side may continue to score a few points, but I think most of them now understand they are going to lose." - Evan Wolfson, head of Freedom to Marry

Distelfink® 7/07 by Ruby Zebu "Doh..."

